

OFFICE OF ACQUISITIONS  
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER: N02PC95026-26

Amendment No.: 1

Date of Issuance: January 27, 2010

The above numbered Request For Proposal (RFP) is amended as set forth below. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offerors remains unchanged: February 22, 2010 at 3:00 PM EST.

Offerors MUST acknowledge receipt of the amendment prior to the hour and the date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by separate letter, telegram, or Electronic Mail which includes a reference to the RFP and Amendment number(s). For your convenience, the Proposal Intent Response Form is provided in SECTION J - List of Attachments of this RFP, for this purpose.

FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERORS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER.

This Amendment revises the RFP as stated below:

RFP # N02-PC-95026-26 is hereby amended to answer questions received from interested parties. The due date for submission of proposals is NOT extended. All other articles remain unchanged. As opposed to Federal Business Opportunities' modification numbering, this is the only amendment to date for this RFP.

**Question 1:** Clarification of following requirement specified on page 8 of the SOW was requested: "Analytic activities will include, but not be limited to, creating a spreadsheet of metadata values to support the development of an online informatics application. The Contractor will be required to create the standardized, electronic coding structures that will be needed to make display of the HINTS data available through the NCI cancer Bioinformatics Grid".

**Response:** As per the RFP, the contractor shall create and deliver metadata and electronic coding structures in a manner consistent with the requirements of CaBIG compatibility. There will be no need to develop an independent Web application.

**Question 2:** Clarification of requirements for cognitive testing, pilot testing and OMB approval for such activities as specified on page 4 of the SOW under task 4 were requested:

**Response:** For budget estimating purposes, we encourage the contractor to consider a total of 150 cognitive interviews and 150 pilot interviews to occur over the course of the three year field period. It is expected that all cognitive interviews and pilot tests will occur after OMB clearance has been obtained and may be spread out over the three year modular field period as needed.

**Question 3:** A question was raised as to whether the "Ph.D." after the Survey Statistician position title to be taken literally or if persons with equivalent experience would be considered.

**Response:** Doctoral-level training (e.g. PhD, Sc.D.) is required for the survey statistician position.

**Question 4:** A question was raised regarding whether place of performance was restricted to Rockville, Maryland.

**Response:** Place of performance is not restricted to Rockville, MD. While travel to Rockville, MD may be required, much of the work can be done from the contractor's location.

**Question 5:** A request was made for a list of all vendors attending the pre-proposal videocast.

**Response:** A record of participation in the videocast is not available.

**Question 6:** Questions were raised regarding the identity of the incumbent prime contractor for the project and availability of prior HINTS instruments.

**Response:** The incumbent prime is Westat, Inc. Prior questionnaires are available at URL:

<http://hints.cancer.gov>

**Question 7:** Clarification around the three year field period was requested.

**Response:** We expect the field period to last for approximately three years, with independent modules fielded off and on throughout the time period and a core set of items fielded more routinely. For budget estimation purposes, we are assuming that the total field period will net approximately 14,000 completed interviews/questionnaires. We have no opinion as to whether this will require continuous surveillance or punctuated periods of activity. We will be looking to the proposals for suggestions of best-practice in conducting modular surveys.

**Question 8:** Clarification of the overall security level for this acquisition was requested.

**Response:** In accordance with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Minimum Security Requirements for Federal Information and Information Systems (FIPS PUB 200), the overall security level for this acquisition has been changed to Moderate. This change is reflected in the amended Solicitation under Article H.10 Information Security and Section L.2.b.14 Information Security.

**Question 9:** Questions were raised regarding the total contract values and periods of performance for prior HINTS contracts.

**Response:** The total contract value for the third administration of the HINTS survey was \$1,746,073. The period of performance was April 10, 2006 - November 30, 2009. The total contract values and periods of performance for prior administrations of the survey may be obtained via a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the NCI FOIA Office.

**Question 10:** A question was raised regarding the measures that vendors interested in subcontracting opportunities can take to make their firms known to potential prime contractors who may submit a proposal in response to this solicitation.

**Response:** The function within FedBizOpps to allow self-identification of interested vendors is currently inoperative. Vendors interested in subcontracting opportunities are encouraged to leverage their knowledge of the field to identify potential offerors and to pursue direct networking opportunities.